



Our ref: AS/JC/lmh

Thursday 25 March 2010

Andrea Stark  
Director of East Area  
Arts Council South-East  
Sovereign House  
Church Street  
Brighton BN1 1RA

Dear Ms Stark,

Southampton has a rich historical heritage and has with the completion of the Cultural Quarter the potential to become a very important regional art centre and cultural destination.

The City's Art collection is one of the best outside London and the Cultural Quarter surrounding the Art Gallery would ensure the preservation and conservation of its art collection for future generations. More importantly it would allow the collection to be enjoyed by visitors and residents alike. We also have the renowned Mayflower Theatre which regularly attracts shows from London's West End that then play to packed audiences.

However, the Arts complex is an essential component of that offer.

Southampton has two universities with a huge student population who would undoubtedly benefit from access to a major art Gallery and cultural quarter. Most importantly Southampton is the cruise capital of Europe attracting over a million passengers each year and it is our ambition to ensure these visitors spend more time in Southampton and thereby contribute to the local economy. The Art complex and the Cultural Quarter would be a tremendous attraction in its own right and would greatly enhance the City offer.

In a recent survey Southampton was judged the most friendly city in the UK which has proved that investment in its future as a centre for tourism just makes good sense.

*the independent voice  
of local business*

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Southampton & Fareham Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest independent Chambers in the South of England and it strongly supports the Southampton City Council in its efforts to obtain the last tranche of funding needed for the Arts Complex to become the cornerstone of the new Cultural Quarter for Southampton.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jimmy Chestnutt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Jimmy Chestnutt**  
**Director General**